THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, village industries, including agro and rural industries, can be set up only in villages and in towns with population up to 20,000. Thus, agro and rural industries cannot be located in metro cities, including the surrounding urban areas (towns) unless the above mentioned criterion of population is met.

(b) to (d) In view of the reply at (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Uranium mining

337. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Atomic Energy proposed uranium mining and processing plant at Nalgonda in A.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the department has submitted its proposal before the Environment Ministry for environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy proposes to open uranium mining and milling project in the Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 558.42 crore. The mines are proposed to be located in Lambapur—Peddagattu in P.A. Pally Mandal and Mill at Seripally village in Deverkonda Mandal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has granted Site Clearance for setting up of mines and application for environmental clearance has been submitted to the MoEF in March, 2005. NOC from the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board is awaited for the processing Mill.